

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 /019 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OF/FPD:JRICHARDSON:JS

APPROVED BY EB/ORF/OF/JPFERCH

ARA/ECP - ABERRY

ARA/PAN - DWAGNER

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R 041747Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, PN

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: PANAMA 6089

1. USG IS UNABLE TO INCREASE PANAMA'S ALLOCATION UNDER THE 1976 VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM. WHETHER OR NOT PROGRAMS WILL EXIST IN 1977 OR 1978 HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED.

2. EMBASSY COMMENT REFTEL INDICATE;ITS AWARENESS OF THE COMPLEX FORMULA EMPLOYED IN DETERMINING VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVELS. THE ALLOCATION RECEIVED BY ANY COUNTRY IS BASED ON HISTORIC SUPPLY PREFORMANCE,AND THE ALLOCATION PROCESS IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE SHARES OF THE TOTAL PROGRAM TO HISTORIC SUPPLIERS ON THE BASIS OF THIS PAST PREFORMANCE. BECAUSE THE ALLOCATION PROCESS IS AN OPEN ONE, EACH COUNTRY JEALOUSLY GUARDS ITS SHARE OF THE PROGRAM. ANY SINGLE COUNTRY INCREASE THAT DEVIATES FROM THE FORMULA WOULD PROVOKE AN INSTANT, WIDESPREAD RESPONSE FROM ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

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3. AGATT EDWIN CISSEL WHO WAS WITH PAUL TAYLOR DURING CONSULTATIONS WITH COSTA RICANS IS FULLY BRIEFED ON CURRENT US MEAT SITUATION AND WHY REQUEST FOR INCREASED ALLOCATION CAN NOT BE GRANTED THIS YEAR.

4. AS PER UNDERSTANDING OF TAYLOR AND IRVING TRAGEN DURING RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, AGATT CISSEL WILL BE IN PANAMA TUESDAY, SEPT. 7 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH PANAMIANS. IN ADDITION TO EXPLAINING USG INABILITY TO INCREASE PANAMA'S 1976 ALLOCATION, AGATT WILL REQUEST PANAMIANS AMEND THE 1976 AGREEMENT SO THAT THE PROBLEM OF SHIPMENTS THROUGH FOREIGN TRADE ZONES (FTZ) MAY BE CONTROLLED WITHOUT NECESSITATING QUOTAS AND WILL INFORM PANAMA OF CHANGE IN STATISTICS FOR 1976 WHICH REMOVED MEAT OF AUSTRALIAN ORIGIN FROM PANAMA'S ALLOCATION AND WHICH WILL ALLOW THEM TO SHIP AN ADDITIONAL 692,632 POUNDS OF MEAT AS OF AUG. 7 UNDER THEIR 1976 ALLOCATION.

5. WEEKLY US CUSTOMS STATISTICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING IMPORTS OF MEAT UNDER THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM FROM ALL SUPPLYING COUNTRIES ARE BEING SUPPLIED TO THE EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON OF ALL PARTICIPANTS BEGINNING WITH WEEK OF SEPT. 3.

6. PANAMA'S VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT ALLOCATION IS NOT THE ONLY BILATERAL CONSIDERATION IN US-PANAMIAN RELATIONS. THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF VESICULAR DISEASE CENTER IN THE CANAL ZONE IS A POSITIVE OUTCOME OF MINISTER PAREDES' VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ROBINSON

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